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Legislation Providing More Tools to Law Enforcement Officers Introduced
Sen. Van Woerkom introduces two bills to help officers fight crime

LANSING – Two bills allowing law enforcement officers the ability to use a Computer Voice Stress Analyzer during their investigations were introduced on August 13 by Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

“Computer Voice Stress Analyzers are an effective tool for law enforcement officers,” Orville Smith, retired undersheriff of Muskegon County said. “Senator Van Woerkom’s bills will bring Michigan in line with 42 other states that allow this technology.”

Senate Bills 665 and 666 would allow law enforcement officers to use Computer Voice Stress Analyzers to investigate crimes and interrogate suspects. The analyzers are similar to polygraph tests, and help police officers verify whether an individual is telling the truth by determining the stress in their voice.

While both the polygraph test and the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer tests have a high rate of truth detection, the analyzer training is considerably less expensive and less time consuming.

“The use of Computer Voice Stress Analyzers would provide law enforcement officials with another effective tool for fighting crime in our communities,” Van Woerkom said. “The safety of West Michigan families is a priority for me, and this legislation helps to protect it.”

Senate Bills 665 and 666 are expected to be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.

Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Van Woerkom with retired Muskegon County Undersheriff Orville Smith and retired Muskegon County Sheriff Bob Carter is available online at the Senate Majority Photowire located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.